



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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Elizabeth Lynch
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RECREATION COMMISSION

December 8, 2015

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Smith, Chairman
Michael Cratty
Jeff Devine
Anne Lynch
Paul Velardi

Absent: Steve Sobolisky

Others Present: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director
Alison Rublemann, ANC Director

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:00 p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll and there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 2, 2015. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Rec 120815

Public Session

Chairman Smith asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission.

Vin Forleo
44 Hoinsky Way
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Forleo said he is here this evening to request to use the Ansonia Soccer Club name so that his league will be able to have insurance. He gave everyone a copy of his proposal (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office).

Mr. Velardi said the use of the Ansonia Soccer Club name also helps with the referees. He said they play their games at the Ansonia Nature Center. They have used this name in the past. Using the Ansonia Soccer Club name enables them to the insurance certificate that will be on file with the City for the Ansonia Soccer Club. They are requesting to use only the name. The program is self-administered and self-funded.

Ms. Lynch said she has talked with Mr. Coppola and he is meeting with the Mayor on the conditions of the fields. She noted the games will be played at the Nature Center and they will use the AHS field for practice.

Mr. Forleo said this program has been using these fields for the last 8 to 10 years for the boy's teams and 3 to 4 years for the girl's teams.

Mr. Velardi asked if they were going to field a Youth 19 girl's team and not a Youth 16 team.

Mr. Forleo said they had only 8 girls sign up so they decided to have a Youth 19 team to make it more attractive to the high school team. They will take any 16 year olds who wish to play.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to accept Mr. Forleo's proposal as presented (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office). Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Keith Maynard
8 Cook Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Maynard asked if Public Works can install a lock on the Little League field at Nolan Field. He said there are residents who use the field for their dogs and then it is not in condition to be used for the games. He would like to have a lock on the gate so the field can be secured.

There was a lengthy discussion on the signs that are posted at the City parks and fields regarding dogs. Mr. Coppola said that per the Police, an ordinance has to be passed by the Board of Aldermen so that you can call the police to come up to the field and remove the violators. Chairman Smith asked how the Commission would go about getting an ordinance for this purpose for all the fields and the Nature Center. Mr. Coppola said he will follow up on getting an Ordinance passed for the fields and the nature center for the dogs.

Chairman Smith said that Mr. Coppola will follow up on this ordinance with the Chief of Police and the Aldermen and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Velardi said the Ordinance should be clear, no dogs allowed on the playing fields.

Ms. Lynch asked about an Ordinance regarding “smoking” on the fields.

There was discussion regarding smoking on the fields and smoking on City property. Ms. Rondon said that most of the parents do not smoke around the children. Mr. Forleo said that it is mainly out of town people who are smoking at the fields. Mr. Coppola said he will see if there is an ordinance “no smoking on City property”.

Mr. Velardi said when a parent signs the soccer registration form they agree not to smoke.

Ms. Rondon said most parents abide by the no smoking but sometimes there are split households and the other parent is unaware of the rules.

Mr. Coppola said he will check on the no smoking ordinance and if there is an ordinance for no smoking he will have the signs made.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to close the public session. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Velardi made a motion to request a lock for the field gate per Mr. Maynard’s request. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Devine asked if Ansonia still maintains the Emmett O’Brien field.

Mr. Coppola said when the project is complete, there will be discussions on the maintenance and who will be using the fields at Emmett O’Brien. He said the maintenance will be lining the fields and cutting the grass. The tennis courts are up in the back now.

Director Reports – Soccer

Mr. Chris Sheehy is not present.

There were no reports received this month.

Mr. Devine asked if Mr. Sheehy sent the last two month's (September and October) reports to the Commission.

The secretary said that she did not receive anything from Mr. Sheehy this month.

Director Reports – Baseball & Softball

Colleen Rondon, President of the Little League Executive Board was present.

The commission received the minutes of the Executive Board's 11/9/15 meeting, Little League local rules (draft), Financial Statement November 2015, proposed fees and fundraisers 2016. (copies on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Ms. Rondon explained the financial report to the members. She said that there is \$9000 for baseball and \$6000 for softball however they are not spending money just to spend money. They will purchase what is needed and it all evens out between the programs. She said they need some money to start the concession stand and there are items that must be purchased.

Ms. Rondon said that she sat down with Mr. Coppola last week and discussed the programs. There will be a Winter Clinic and other specialty clinics during the winter months for both the baseball and softball programs.

Mr. Brad Zealor, a member of the Little League Board of Directors was present. He said that his program doesn't need to purchase anything at this time. He said a pitching instructor to coach the children would be good for the program.

Ms. Lynch asked if there is any interested people to do this and would there be a charge.

Mr. Zealor said he would use some of the funds he has to get them interested and participating and then they would have to be on their own. He said there was a lady a few years ago who did coaching for 10 to 12 year old girls for \$25 for 5 sessions. He said they need more talent to guide the girls and this costs money. He said he will look into it for the girls.

Ms. Rondon said that the Executive Board chose to go with a new Mat System which is Web-based. The system has multiple users and registration can be done on line and they can communicate better on line. They voted to go forward with the new system. She said that they will be implementing the new By-laws. The Winter Clinic will begin Feb. 3, 2016. They have the dates for the use of the Armory.

Chairman Smith asked about Derby's participation.

Mr. Zealor said Derby requested a meeting. Ansonia takes Derby softball girls and they had some concerns that we were not picking their parents as coaches and volunteers. He said they sat with Derby and went over all of the concerns. Derby was given opportunities for coaching, etc.

and the people asked said no. Rob Heider was happy to have us and we are happy to have their girls. There are about 30 to 40 girls from Derby. He said no one ever came to him saying they were told it was too late. He said he never heard that anyone was turned down for volunteering or a coaching position.

There was discussion that Derby girls were only put in the game in outfield. Ms. Rondon said this was to have happened in May and it was brought to their attention in November. If a parent notices four games in a row that this happens, they should speak with the coach and then come to the Executive Board. It is about communication. Mr. Zealor said the girls have to get equal playing time especially in the lower level.

Ms. Rondon said that they changed the fundraiser. They plan to do a Hit-a-thon as the fundraiser. She explained how the Hit-a-thon is run. Derby made \$7500 plus cash donations. The cost is minimal and the profit is good and everyone has fun. She is hoping that it will be a success.

Ms. Lynch asked if there is a form for donations.

Ms. Rondon said she can do that and the web-site (99pledges.com) does special games for fundraisers.

Mr. Devine said that there will be indoor clinics held at the Armory and the bathrooms need to be fixed. He asked if there is money to upgrade or fix the bathrooms because they should not be used in this condition.

Mr. Coppola said they didn't fix the bathrooms at the Armory as yet. The backstop at Nolan Field has been repaired.

Ms. Lynch said they don't know if they plan on fixing the bathrooms at the Armory. The Administration has plans for something bigger and better.

Mr. Coppola said he will see Supt. Novak this evening and he will mention to him that the bathrooms need to be repaired.

Ms. Lynch said that we can't go two years without a lock and without the bathroom being fixed. She said that she, Jeff, Doug and Sheila sat down in a meeting a year ago to discuss the repairs to the Armory.

Ms. Lynch asked Ms. Rondon if the \$90 registration fee remained the same.

Ms. Rondon said yes.

Mr. Cratty moved to accept the Baseball/Softball report received. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Rondon further explained the fees stating last year the raffle fee was included but they changed that so there are no upfront costs but it adds \$5.00 per child. This enables them to increase the umpire fee. Hopefully the increase in the umpire fee will attract umpires.

Ms. Lynch asked about the Quassy end of the year party.

Ms. Rondon said instead of separate parties they will host a Quassy Day at the park which includes the use of the pavilion and the park for all of the participants in the baseball and softball program. The cost will be covered with the fundraisers. They are planning this event for June 18th so hopefully they can get everyone at the end of the season to come and celebrate.

Mr. Cratty made a motion to accept the baseball/softball report, the by-laws and the fee schedule presented. Mr. Velardi seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Director Reports – Basketball

Mr. Coppola said he will cover basketball in his report.

Director Reports – Football

Mr. Brad Zealor, AYF President was present.

Mr. Zealor presented the Youth Football Financial report to everyone.

Mr. Velardi asked how the fiscal year balance to date compares with last year.

Mr. Zealor said he didn't know. He said Dolores would be able to answer that. He said he doesn't know the cost of the banquet.

Mr. Velardi asked if there are any major expenses this year.

Mr. Maynard said they purchased a blocking sled.

Mr. Devine asked how the equipment returns were doing.

Mr. Maynard said he received all but two sets of equipment and he is not concerned with that. They will be bringing them in.

Mr. Zealor said the registration fees not paid are under \$1000. He spoke to Corp. Counsel Marini and he will do the same thing he did last year for collection.

Mr. Devine asked about the West Point expenses and the \$4500 cost.

Mr. Zealor said that expense came out of AYF funds, it covered the buses, the tickets, etc. It was a great event but it cost us money.

Mr. Devine asked if the commission should approve this expense.

Mr. Coppola said no, it is not the City of Ansonia's money. The money came out of their funds and their account.

Mr. Zealor said if there are any questions, you can call Dolores.

Mr. Coppola said he received the Stadium Systems Invoice today.

Mr. Zealor said the City Stitches bills were paid. Everything has been paid.

Mr. Velardi asked Mr. Zealor to explain the Concession Stand expense of \$4800.

Mr. Zealor said they have an agreement with the Grid Iron Club to let Mr. Williams run the Stand and they provide two volunteers every game and they split the profit with AYF. AYF pays half the upgrades/maintenance cost. The Stand hasn't been cleaned in 5 years and the Grid Iron club will reimburse the AYF half of this cost.

Mr. Velardi asked about the maintenance and upkeep of the Stand – is it AYF or is it split. Is the revenue split half and half.

Mr. Zealor said the revenue is split half to us and half to Grid Iron club. He said that amount was agreed on early in the year.

Mr. Velardi asked how much revenue they are expecting.

Mr. Zealor said they have no statements.

Mr. Velardi said the cost of \$4800 was to restore the building. Does AYF get half back?

Mr. Velardi asked is it a good investment?

Mr. Zealor said yes. Mr. Williams purchases the supplies, he cooks and he sells the product. All we have to do is supply two volunteers each game and we receive half the profit. AHS receives half the profit for their home games. It is a win win for us.

The discussion continued on the benefit that AYF is getting with the agreement for the Concession Stand. Mr. Zealor said there were multiple conversations with them and we share the facility with AHS. Mr. Zealor said he, Jeff and Coach Brockett met on the Concession Stand and it is used by both organizations, we shared everything. AYF put money into fixing the building and it is best to come up with half the money and we don't have to have anyone oversee anything. Mr. Williams along with the volunteers serves the food and runs the Stand. He is there cooking and if he runs out of burgers, he is going to Restaurant Depot at 9:00 p.m. to get

more. Mr. Zealor said it is nice to see the AYF President and Vice President on the side lines of the game. They are there if someone is hurt and they go out onto the field. We never had representatives before cheering on the teams instead they were in the Concession Stand.

Mr. Velardi asked why have the Concession Stand if we split the profit.

Mr. Maynard said cut the \$4800 in half and the cost is \$2400. He said there were discussions on who will run the Concession Stand.

Mr. Zealor said the equipment is owned by the Ansonia Football and Cheer Assn. The cost should not be as much in the future. The Concession Stand went five years without maintenance. There was a lot of work that had to be done to clean it up and get the equipment in good shape.

Mr. Velardi asked where the revenue is going for this.

Mr. Zealor said it is going back into our accounts.

Mr. Coppola said that Mr. Williams and Coach Brockett will come up with the revenue and expenses and then split it out.

Mr. Velardi said OK, that is the piece that was missing, I understand.

Mr. Zealor said D10 and D12 Cheer are in Florida at Nationals. There are 39 girls who made the trip. He explained there is an AYF Day where Universal closes the park and gives back to the teams . The cost is \$45 per child which feeds the child, coaches and parents.

Mr. Zealor said there are discussions with Ansonia continuing to be a part of the Colonial Division of AYF. There are multiple problems with their scheduling. They have been meeting for 7 weeks with four other towns discussing the possibility of forming an Independent League. These towns are Ansonia, Asputuck, Woodland, New Milford and Oxford. They have also discussed possibly going back to Pop Warner.

Mr. Maynard discussed the different options Ansonia AYF has with regard to the football program. Pop Warner has a D3 league with the same rules as AYF and weight restrictions. There is a D-3 which is unlimited weight and Pop Warner is trying this approach because they want it to go nationally. He said there is the option of forming an Independent League with other towns that are similar to Ansonia. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow evening (12/9/15) at 6:30p.m. at the Senior Center in Ansonia to make a decision as to which way Ansonia will go.

Discussion continued on the teams that would participate in the Independent League and what they have to offer to the program. Torrington is considering joining the Independent program. Ansonia, Woodland, Torrington offer 4 to 5 teams in a program. Oxford has 2 teams, New Milford has 1 team and Asputuck has 3 teams.

Mr. Maynard said that they will advise the Recreation Commission as to happens in the meeting tomorrow evening.

Chairman Smith asked where Derby, Shelton and Seymour are in this.

Mr. Maynard said that Derby is with Pop Warner. Ansonia doesn't want to play weight restricted football. AYF rules work for Ansonia but they don't work for Derby, Seymour or Shelton.

Mr. Zealor said they need commitments in order to go forward especially if they are offering both programs and the others don't commit.

Mr. Zealor said that he spoke to Ms. Lynch, Mr. Coppola and Mr. Maynard regarding the splitting of the Executive Boards for Cheer and Football programs. The Cheer program has grown and it will be easier if they were separate – separate line items and separate Boards. He said he spoke to Corporation Counsel Marini and he will help the football and cheer groups completely separate. He will help with the 501K, the tax ID and the bank accounts. All of this has to be done. It will be beneficial for both groups.

Mr. Coppola said as Recreation Director we are all in favor of the split and the separate identity for each of the programs. The fundraisers will be separate as will the line items. He said he will work with Football and Cheer to secure separate lines for Cheer and Football.

Mr. Zealor said he wanted to make the Recreation Commission aware that this was in the process and they want to be sure they abide by the proper procedure.

Ms. Lynch asked if this would happen after the 1st of the year.

Mr. Zealor said they may be able to get early registration if it is completed sooner.

Mr. Cratty asked how they would do the Financials and the reporting.

Mr. Zealor said everything would be the same reporting only there would be a report for Cheer and a report for Football.

Ms. Lynch asked if the Commission can vote to separate the Football and Cheer programs.

Mr. Coppola said yes.

Mr. Zealor said he will present a proposal next meeting.

Mr. Coppola said they would have to liquidate the accounts and pay all of the bills.

Mr. Zealor said they will present everything to Mr. Coppola.

Ms. Lynch asked if there would be new elections on the Executive Board.

Mr. Zealor said yes because there would be separate Boards. They will make a decision tomorrow night on everything.

Mr. Coppola said the commission can make a motion to give them permission to have two separate identities, two separate Executive Boards and two separate line items.

Mr. Velardi asked if the money would be separated when Cheer becomes a separate program.

Mr. Devine said they should present a proposal to the Recreation Commission asking for permission to investigate the separation of Football and Cheer and then they should come back to us with a written proposal of how they plan to do it.

Mr. Zealor said he will prepare a written proposal for Football and Cheer. He will include the following information:

1. Statement outlining each program. Their purpose, goals, duties, etc.
2. Revenue – separate line items explaining how much money should be allocated to each program.
3. Expenses – separate line items for expenses – explain the expenses for each program.
4. Election of an Executive Board for Football and Cheer separately.
5. How they plan to do this separation.
6. Effective Date.
7. Anything else that is relevant to the smooth transition of this split.

Mr. Cratty moved to accept the Football & Cheer report as presented. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Alison Rublemann, ANC Director

Alison Rublemann was present.

The Commissioners received her monthly report. (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Ms. Rublemann reviewed her monthly report with the Commission members. She said she is working with the local Rotary Clubs and FANCI on funding a Housatonic & Naugatuck Watershed Educational Exhibit. FANCI is working on grants for the playground and there have been donations from local businesses. B&L Engineering presented plans for the parking lot for her to review.

Mr. Cratty moved to accept the Nature Center report. Mr. Devine seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports: Jeff Coppola, Recreation Director

Mr. Coppola was present.

Mr. Coppola gave everyone a copy of his report. (copy on file in Town Clerk's office)

Mr. Coppola explained that the Basketball program is underway. Vince DellaVolpe, the High School Girls Basketball coach is the instructor for the Instructional League teaching the basics. He continued to review the basketball program as outlined in his report.

Mr. Coppola said with regard to the Recreation Center, there have been talks with City officials on a possible Recreation site/center/gym for Recreation and Sr. Center using an existing building or building a new building on Ansonia property.

Mr. Coppola said there will be a meeting on Friday regarding the Little League fields and the soccer fields. They will visit all of the fields in Ansonia as they all have to be repaired. He said possible uses for the fields are soccer at ANC, he will work with Emmett O'Brien on the use of their field. We can possibly use Abe Stone park for baseball or soccer complex. He said the City brought in a contractor that does restoration of fields.

Chairman Smith said PWD did the work on the fields in the past. They have done a good job.

Mr. Coppola said they do a good job with the fields with maintenance and lining the fields but once in a while we have to have some major work done on the fields that PWD doesn't have the equipment to do the work.

Mr. Velardi asked who PWD will be working with.

Mr. Coppola said BBE from Monroe. He said they will get PWD involved also. They are contractors and they do turf. They did the City of Shelton parks and fields and are very good.

Ms. Rondon asked what happens to the games scheduled and they are working on the fields.

Mr. Coppola said he would consult with them and will figure the timing for each field. He will schedule around the games whenever possible.

Mr. Velardi moved to accept Mr. Coppola's report. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Coppola presented the following bills for payment:

1. Little League Charter/Insurance: \$2184
2. Adrian Solis, umpire fees: \$1215
3. Arthur Solis, umpire fees: \$1215

Mr. Cratty made a motion to pay the bills presented. Ms. Lynch seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

None

Executive Session

None

Any other business to come before the commission

None

January Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Cratty seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary